1. In a computerized system for enabling a consumer to digitally filter multimedia content that is comprised of video content, audio content, or both, and wherein the consumer's computer system includes a processor, a memory, a decoder, and an output device for playing the multimedia content, a method for assisting the consumer to automatically identify portions of the multimedia content that are to be filtered and to thereafter automatically filter the identified portions, the method comprising the acts of:

creating an object store which can be loaded into a memory of the computer system of the consumer, the object store including a plurality of navigation objects, each of which defines a portion of the multimedia content that is to be filtered by defining a start position and a stop position and a specific filtering action to be performed on the portion of the multimedia content defined by the start and stop positions for that portion;

decoding the multimedia content on the computer system of the consumer and as the multimedia content is output from a decoder of the computer system, continuously updating a position code;

as the multimedia content is decoding, continuously monitoring the position code and comparing it with each navigation object to determine whether the position corresponding to the position code is within one of the navigation objects;

when the position code is determined to be within a navigation object, activating the filtering action assigned to the particular navigation object in order to filter the multimedia content for that portion defined by the navigation object; and

transferring the multimedia content to an output device, whereby the multimedia content is played at the output device excluding each portion thereof which is filtered in accordance with the plurality of navigation objects.

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2. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the filtering action is either skipping or reframing the portion of the multimedia content defined by the particular navigation object.

3. A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the filtering action is skipping the portion of the multimedia content defined by the particular navigation object, the method further comprising the acts of:

terminating the decoding of the multimedia content at the start position of the particular navigation object;

advancing to the stop position of the particular navigation object; and

resuming the decoding of the multimedia content at the stop position of the particular navigation object.

4. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the multimedia content is comprised of one or more channels of audio content and the filtering action assigned to the particular navigation object is muting at least one channel of the audio content for the portion of the audio content defined by the particular navigation object.

5. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the decoder includes a vendor independent interface and wherein interaction with the decoder occurs through the vendor independent interface.

6. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein consumer's computer system comprises one of (i) components of a personal computer, (ii) components of television system, and (iii) components of an audio system.

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7. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein a plurality of object stores are available, the method further comprising the acts of:

retrieving the title of the multimedia content from the decoder; and

selecting the object store from the plurality of object stores based on the title of the multimedia content retrieved from the decoder.

8. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the consumer's computer system includes a source of the multimedia content comprising one of a DVD, a CD, a random access memory, a hard drive, a removable disk storage medium, and a tape storage medium.

9. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the position codes are time codes.

10. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the plurality of navigation objects are based at least in part on the age appropriateness of the portions of the multimedia content defined by the plurality of navigation objects, age appropriateness being determined according to either industry or community standards.

11. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the object store at least initially is located at a remote system, and wherein the consumer's computer system and the remote system are interconnected through a communication link, the method further comprising the act of accessing the object store over the communication link.

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12. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein navigation object includes a configuration identifier, the method further comprising the acts of:

assigning a configuration identifier to the decoder;

comparing the configuration identifier of the particular navigation object with the configuration identifier of the decoder to determine if the particular navigation object applies to the decoder; and

determining that the particular navigation object applies to the decoder based on the configuration identifier of the particular navigation object matching the configuration identifier of the decoder.

13. A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the acts of:

displaying a representation of the plurality of navigation objects, the representation including a description of each of the plurality of navigation objects;

receiving a password to authorize disabling at least one of the plurality of navigation objects;

receiving a response to the representation of the plurality of navigation objects, the response identifying the at least one of the plurality of navigation objects to be disabled; and

disabling the at least one of the plurality of navigation objects such that the video action specified by the at least one of the plurality of navigation objects is ignored.

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14. In a computerized system for enabling a consumer to digitally filter audio content, wherein the consumer's computer system includes a processor, a memory, a decoder, and an output device for playing the audio content, a method for assisting the consumer to automatically identify portions of the audio content that are to be filtered and to thereafter automatically filter the identified portions, comprising the acts of:

creating an object store which can be loaded into a memory of the computer system of the consumer, the object store including a plurality of navigation objects, each of which defines a portion of the audio content that is to be filtered by defining a start position and a stop position and a specific filtering action to be performed on the portion of the audio content defined by the start and stop positions for that portion;

decoding the audio content on the computer system of the consumer and as the audio content is output from a decoder of the computer system, continuously updating a position code;

as the audio content is decoding, continuously monitoring the position code and comparing it with each navigation object to determine whether the position corresponding to the position code is within one of the navigation objects;

when the position code is determined to be within a navigation object, activating the filtering action assigned to the particular navigation object in order to filter the audio content for that portion defined by the navigation object; and

transferring the multimedia content to an output device, whereby the multimedia content is played at the output device excluding each portion thereof which is filtered in accordance with the plurality of navigation objects.

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15. A method as recited in claim 14 wherein the position codes are time codes.

16. A method as recited in claim 15 wherein the audio content is comprised of one or more channels and the filtering action assigned to the particular navigation object is muting at least one channel of the audio content for the portion of the audio content defined by the particular navigation object.

17. A method as recited in claim 16 wherein the object store comprises navigation objects corresponding to a variety of audio content, the method further comprising the acts of:

retrieving the title of the audio content from the decoder; and

selecting the plurality of navigation objects from the object store based on the title of the audio content retrieved from the decoder.

18. A method as recited in claim 17 wherein the decoder includes a vendor independent interface and wherein interaction with the decoder occurs through the vendor independent interface.

19. A method as recited in claim 18 wherein the consumer's computer system includes a source of audio content comprising one of a DVD, a CD, a random access memory, a hard drive, a removable disk storage medium, and a tape storage medium.

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20. In a computerized system for enabling a consumer to digitally filter video content, wherein the consumer's computer system includes a processor, a memory, a decoder, and an output device for playing the video content, a method for assisting the consumer to automatically identify portions of the video content that are to be filtered and to thereafter automatically filter the identified portions, comprising the acts of:

creating an object store which can be loaded into a memory of the computer system of the consumer, the object store including a plurality of navigation objects, each of which defines a portion of the video content that is to be filtered by defining a start position and a stop position and a specific filtering action to be performed on the portion of the video content defined by the start and stop positions for that portion;

decoding the video content on the computer system of the consumer and as the video content is output from a decoder of the computer system, continuously updating a position code;

as the video content is decoding, continuously monitoring the position code and comparing it with each navigation object to determine whether the position corresponding to the position code is within one of the navigation objects;

when the position code is determined to be within a navigation object, activating the filtering action assigned to the particular navigation object in order to filter the video content for that portion defined by the navigation object; and

transferring the multimedia content to an output device, whereby the multimedia content is played at the output device excluding each portion thereof which is filtered in accordance with the plurality of navigation objects.

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21. A method as recited in claim 20 wherein the position codes are time codes.

22. A method as recited in claim 21 wherein the filtering action is either skipping or reframing the portion of the video content defined by the particular navigation object.

23. A method as recited in claim 22, wherein the filtering action is skipping the portion of the multimedia content defined by the particular navigation object, the method further comprising the acts of:

terminating the decoding of the video content at the start position of the particular navigation object;

advancing to the stop position of the particular navigation object; and

resuming the decoding of the video content at the stop position of the particular navigation object.

24. A method as recited in claim 23 wherein the video content includes audio content that corresponds to the video content, the method further comprising the acts of:

terminating the decoding of the audio content at the start position of the particular navigation object;

advancing to the stop position of the particular navigation object; and

resuming the decoding of the audio content at the stop position of the particular navigation object.

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25. A method as recited in claim 20 wherein a plurality of object stores are available, the method further comprising the acts of:

retrieving the title of the video content from the decoder; and

selecting the object store from the plurality of object stores based on the title of the video content retrieved from the decoder.

26. A method as recited in claim 20 wherein the decoder includes a vendor independent interface and wherein interaction with the decoder occurs through the vendor independent interface.

27. A method as recited in claim 26 wherein the consumer's computer system includes a source of video content comprising one of a DVD, a CD, a random access memory, a hard drive, a removable disk storage medium, and a tape storage medium.

28. A method as recited in claim 27 wherein consumer's computer system comprises one of (i) components of a personal computer, (ii) components of a television system, and (iii) components of an audio system.

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29. A method as recited in claim 28 further comprising the acts of:

displaying a representation of the plurality of navigation objects, the representation including a description of each of the plurality of navigation objects;

receiving a password to authorize disabling at least one of the plurality of navigation objects;

receiving a response to the representation of the plurality of navigation objects, the response identifying the at least one of the plurality of navigation objects to be disabled; and

disabling the at least one of the plurality of navigation objects such that the video action specified by the at least one of the plurality of navigation objects is ignored.

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30. In a computerized system for enabling a consumer to digitally filter multimedia content that is comprised of video content, audio content, or both, and wherein the consumer's computer system includes a processor, a memory, a decoder, and an output device for playing the multimedia content, a method for assisting the consumer to automatically identify portions of the multimedia content that are to be filtered and to thereafter automatically filter the identified portions, the method comprising steps for:

providing an object store which can be loaded into a memory of the computer system of the consumer, the object store including a plurality of navigation objects, each of which defines a portion of the multimedia content that is to be filtered;

using a decoder of the consumer's computer system to determine when the multimedia content decoded by the decoder is within the portions of the multimedia content defined by the plurality of navigation objects;

when multimedia content decoded by the decoder is determined to be within the portion of the multimedia content defined by a particular navigation object, filtering the multimedia content; and

causing the multimedia content to be played at an output device, whereby the multimedia content played at the output device excludes each portion thereof which is filtered in accordance with the plurality of navigation objects.

31. A method as recited in claim 30 wherein consumer's computer system comprises one of (i) components of a personal computer, (ii) components of a television system, and (iii) components of an audio system.

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32. A method as recited in claim 30 wherein each of the plurality of navigation objects includes (i) a start position and a stop position for defining the portion of the multimedia content that is to be filtered, and (ii) a specific filtering action to be performed on the portion of the multimedia content defined by the start and stop positions for that portion, and wherein the step for using the decoder comprises the acts of:

decoding multimedia content; and

continuously updating a position code as multimedia content is decoded by the decoder.

33. A method as recited in claim 32 wherein the multimedia content includes video content and wherein the step for filtering the multimedia content comprises the acts of:

comparing the position code with each navigation object;

determining the position corresponding to the position code is within a particular navigation object;

terminating the decoding of the video content at the start position of the particular navigation object;

advancing to the stop position of the particular navigation object; and

resuming the decoding of the video content at the stop position of the particular navigation object.

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34. A method as recited in claim 32 wherein the multimedia content includes one or more channels of audio content and wherein the step for filtering the multimedia content comprises the acts of:

comparing the position code with each navigation object;

determining the position corresponding to the position code is within a particular navigation object;

muting at least one channel of the audio content for the portion of the audio content defined by the particular navigation object.

35. A method as recited in claim 32 wherein the position codes are time codes.

36. A method as recited in claim 30 further comprising a step for deactivating at least one of the plurality of navigation objects.

37. A method as recited in claim 30 wherein the decoder includes a vendor independent interface and wherein interaction with the decoder occurs through the vendor independent interface.

38. A method as recited in claim 30 wherein the consumer's computer system includes a source of the multimedia content comprising one of a DVD, a CD, a random access memory, a hard drive, a removable disk storage medium, and a tape storage medium.

39. A computerized system for enabling a consumer to digitally filter multimedia content that is comprised of video content, audio content, or both, wherein the computerized system assists the consumer in automatically identifying portions of the multimedia content that are to be filtered and to thereafter automatically filter the identified portions, the computerized system comprising:

a multimedia source;

a decoder that receives multimedia content from the multimedia source;

an output device that plays multimedia content received from the decoder;

an object store loaded at least in part into a memory of the computerized system, the object store containing a plurality of navigation objects, each of which defines a portion of the multimedia content that is to be filtered by defining a start position, a stop position, and a specific filtering action to be performed on the portion of the multimedia content defined by the start and stop positions for that portion; and

processor means coupled to the decoder and the memory for:

using a decoder to determine when the multimedia content decoded by the decoder is within the portions of the multimedia content defined by the plurality of navigation objects;

when multimedia content decoded by the decoder is determined to be within the portion of the multimedia content defined by a particular navigation object, filtering the multimedia content; and

causing the multimedia content to be played at an output device, whereby the multimedia content played at the output device excludes each

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portion thereof which is filtered in accordance with the plurality of navigation objects.

40. A system as recited in claim 39 wherein the decoder and the processor means are located remotely from each other, the system further comprising:

a communication link between the decoder and the processor means; and

processor means for interacting with the decoder over the communication link.

41. A system as recited in claim 40 wherein the processor means is located in a remote control device.

42. A system as recited in claim 40 wherein the processor means is located in a server system, the server system being capable of interacting with one or more decoders over the communication link.

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43. A computerized system for enabling a consumer to digitally filter multimedia content that is comprised of video content, audio content, or both, wherein the computerized system assists the consumer in automatically identifying portions of the multimedia content that are to be filtered and to thereafter automatically filter the identified portions, the computerized system comprising:

multimedia source means for providing video content;

decoder means for decoding multimedia content received from the multimedia source;

output means for playing multimedia content received from the decoder means;

multimedia navigation means for associating filtering actions with navigation portions of the multimedia content, the navigation portions of the multimedia content being defined by the multimedia navigation means; and

processor means coupled to the decoder and the memory for:

using a decoder to determine when the multimedia content decoded by the decoder is within the portions of the multimedia content defined by the plurality of navigation objects;

when multimedia content decoded by the decoder is determined to be within the portion of the multimedia content defined by a particular navigation object, filtering the multimedia content; and

causing the multimedia content to be played at an output device, whereby the multimedia content played at the output device excludes each portion thereof ~~which is filtered in accordance~~ with the plurality of navigation objects.

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44. A system as recited in claim 43 wherein the decoder means and the processor means are located remotely from each other, the system further comprising:

communication means for exchanging data between the decoder and the processor means; and

processor means for interacting with the decoder over the communication means.

45. A system as recited in claim 44 wherein the processor means is located in a remote control device.

46. A system as recited in claim 44 wherein the processor means is located in a server means, the server means being capable of interacting with one or more decoder means over the communication means.

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47. In a computerized system for enabling a consumer to digitally filter multimedia content that is comprised of video content, audio content, or both, and wherein the consumer's computer system includes a processor, a memory, a decoder, and an output device for playing the multimedia content, a computer program product for implementing a method of assisting the consumer to automatically identify portions of the multimedia content that are to be filtered and to thereafter automatically filter the identified portions, comprising:

a computer readable medium for carrying machine-executable instructions for implementing the method; and

wherein said method is comprised of machine-executable instructions for performing the acts of:

creating an object store which can be loaded into a memory of the computer system of the consumer, the object store including a plurality of navigation objects, each of which defines a portion of the multimedia content that is to be filtered by defining a start position and a stop position and a specific filtering action to be performed on the portion of the multimedia content defined by the start and stop positions for that portion;

decoding the multimedia content on the computer system of the consumer and as the multimedia content is output from a decoder of the computer system, continuously updating a position code;

as the multimedia content is decoding, continuously monitoring the position code and comparing it with each navigation object to determine whether the position corresponding to the position code is within one of the navigation objects;

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when the position code is determined to be within a navigation object, activating the filtering action assigned to the particular navigation object in order to filter the multimedia content for that portion defined by the navigation object; and

transferring the multimedia content to an output device, whereby the multimedia content is played at the output device excluding each portion thereof which is filtered in accordance with the plurality of navigation objects.

48. A computer program product as recited in claim 47 wherein the position codes are time codes.

49. A computer program product as recited in claim 47 wherein the filtering action is skipping the portion of the multimedia content defined by the particular navigation object, the method comprised further of machine-executable instructions for performing the acts of:

terminating the decoding of the multimedia content at the start position of the particular navigation object;

advancing to the stop position of the particular navigation object; and

resuming the decoding of the multimedia content at the stop position of the particular navigation object.

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50. A computer program product as recited in claim 47 wherein the multimedia content is comprised of one or more channels of audio content and the filtering action assigned to the particular navigation object is muting, the method comprised further of machine-executable instructions for performing the act of muting at least one channel of the audio content for the portion of the audio content defined by the particular navigation object.

51. A computer program product as recited in claim 47 wherein the decoder includes a vendor independent software interface and wherein the method is comprised further of machine-executable instructions for performing the act of interacting with the decoder through the vendor independent software interface.

52. A computer program product as recited in claim 47 wherein the method is comprised further of machine-executable instructions for performing the act of:

displaying a representation of the plurality of navigation objects, the representation including a description of each of the plurality of navigation objects;

receiving a password to authorize disabling at least one of the plurality of navigation objects;

receiving a response to the representation of the plurality of navigation objects, the response identifying the at least one of the plurality of navigation objects to be disabled; and

disabling the at least one of the plurality of navigation objects such that the video action specified by the at least one of the plurality of navigation objects is ignored.

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53. A computer program product as recited in claim 47 wherein the method is comprised further of machine-executable instructions for performing the act of:

retrieving the title of the multimedia content from the decoder; and

selecting the plurality of navigation objects based on the title of the multimedia content retrieved from the decoder.

54. A computer program product as recited in claim 47 wherein the object store at least initially is located at a remote system, and wherein the consumer's computer system and the remote system are interconnected through a communication link, the method comprised further of machine-executable instructions for performing act of accessing the object store over the communication link.

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